



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL PROJECT, A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION ADMINISTERED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

## South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Reaches Milestone

On March 9, the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Draft Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) was released for public comment. It outlines the restoration, flood control and public access alternatives for 15,100 acres of former salt ponds in the Eden Landing, Ravenswood and Alviso areas. With the release of the EIR/EIS, this collaborative project has reached an important milestone in its multi-year planning process managed by the Coastal Conservancy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game.

The environmental analysis identifies options for restoration that include a combination of managed ponds and tidal wetlands. It also identifies new trail alignments on perimeter levees and measures the potential impacts of "Phase I" activities that are scheduled



Artist rendering of proposed loop trail at Eden Landing

South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project EIS/EIR, March 2007

to begin in 2008. One of the Phase I projects identified in the analysis is the completion of the 2.5-mile Bay Trail gap at Moffett Field between Sunnyvale Baylands and Mountain View Shoreline.

As flood control levees are opened and built, the Bay Trail has the potential to expand up to another 37 miles. The Final EIR/EIS will be released in late summer 2007. For more information about the restoration project, visit the project website at [www.southbayrestoration.org](http://www.southbayrestoration.org).

## New Bay Trail Grant Program Available Through Proposition 84

Last November, California voters passed Proposition 84, the Clean Water, Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Act, authorizing \$5.4 billion in general obligation bonds to fund safe drinking water programs, flood protection and preservation of natural landscapes. The bond earmarks \$108 million to the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program.

The passage of this bond is great news for the Bay Trail Project – the Coastal Conservancy will allocate \$6 million to the Bay Trail Project for planning and construction of Bay Trail segments throughout the region. This allocation will allow us to continue our successful grant program. We expect to receive formal authorization for these funds in September 2007. In advance of this allocation, Bay Trail staff will notify local jurisdictions and land managers of the grant application process this summer. Look for this update on our website this summer at [www.baytrail.org](http://www.baytrail.org).

## Fisherman's Wharf Community Planning Process

The northern waterfront of San Francisco hosts some of the most spectacular, scenic, and well-used Bay Trail in the entire 500-mile system. However, getting through and around one of its most popular destinations—**Fisherman's Wharf**—can be quite a challenge. Trolley cars, large crowds, and traffic present a daunting challenge for all Bay Trail users, and railroad tracks imbedded in the street at cross angles present a particular hazard to bicyclists. Merchants and property owners recognized the need for improved circulation, parking, and access to the Bay and formed a Community Benefit District (CBD) to address these issues. The Fisherman's Wharf CBD hired the planning and landscape design firm, EDAW, to assist with the process. The "Fisherman's Wharf Vision Plan—Phase I" is the initial planning document resulting from two stakeholder workshops. The document highlights the need for such things as a parking management plan, comprehensive retail merchandising plan, development of urban design guidelines, identification of open space improvements, support for key projects (Bay Delta Center and Fish Co-op) and a funding plan for these improvements. The Bay Trail Project will continue to be an active participant in identifying improvements to bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in this area, and looks forward to seeing the renaissance of Fisherman's Wharf.



### Your Photos on the Bay Trail Website!

Help the Bay Trail Project by submitting your photographs of the Bay Trail. We are redesigning our website this year and are looking for photographs that exemplify the Bay Trail for use on our new website. Photos of spectacular views and interesting destinations along the Bay Trail. People running, strolling, bicycling, rollerblading, commuting, and birding on the Bay Trail. Urban and natural areas of the Bay Trail. Whatever great pictures that you have! To submit your photos, go to our website at [www.baytrail.org](http://www.baytrail.org).

## Visiting the Bay Trail

*"Visiting the Bay Trail" is a new article series that will regularly highlight exciting new places to enjoy the Bay Trail throughout the Bay Area. We begin the series with Middle Harbor Shoreline Park in Oakland.*

### Middle Harbor Shoreline Park

This 37-acre shoreline park in the midst of the Port of Oakland offers stunning views of the Bay Bridge and San Francisco skyline, as well as unique and up-close views of the massive cranes and ships at work in one of the nation's busiest ports. Middle Harbor Shoreline Park was built and opened by the Port of Oakland in 2004 and is operated by the East Bay Regional Park District. A wide-variety of facilities and activities are available at the park including an amphitheater, fishing pier and platforms, a children's playground, historical exhibits, an observation tower that provides dramatic 360-degree views, free viewing scopes at the observation tower and Point Arnold, Oakland's only beach, bird watching, picnic/BBQ facilities, restrooms, water fountains, and of course nearly 3 miles of Bay Trail. The picnic areas and the amphitheater can be reserved for large groups by contacting the Park District at (510) 636-1684.

**Trails:** Nearly 3 miles of paved and gravel trails.

**Directions:** For driving directions, visit the Park District's website at [www.ebparcs.org](http://www.ebparcs.org). Parking is available off 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Middle Harbor Road at the park.

**Transit:** AC Transit Route 13 provides service to the park.



View of San Francisco Cityscape from Middle Harbor Shoreline Park



Bair Island

Russ Juskalian, Save the Bay

## Bair Island Restoration and New Alignment for the Bay Trail

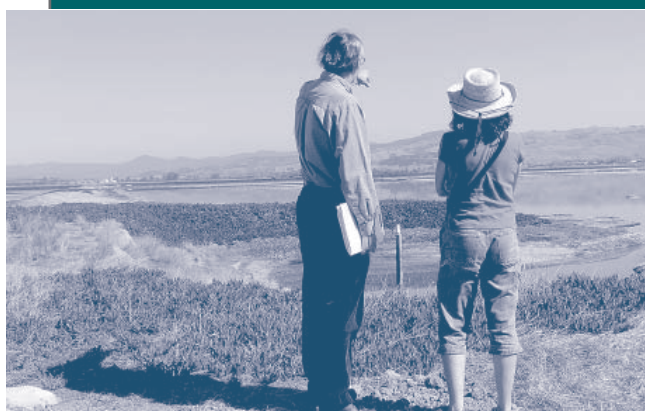
As a result of exemplary collaboration between the City of Redwood City, Redwood City Task Force, and the local community, a vision of restoring Bair Island is now under way. Old earthen berms diked for farming, grazing and salt production will come down, letting in the tides for the first time since the 1800's.

## Napa River Trail

In 2006, the Bay Trail Steering Committee granted \$75,000 to the County of Napa to assess the feasibility of a new, 8.5-mile Bay Trail alignment along the Napa River, from American Canyon to the Napa River Bridge near the existing Bay Trail in Kennedy Park. A confluence of events has created a unique opportunity to change the current highway alignment to a truly spectacular riverside alignment: The California Department of Fish and Game is restoring wetlands at the Napa Plant Site and will include public access along the levees, the Napa County Waste Management Authority is closing a landfill which potentially allows for an important connection to the existing trail in American Canyon, and the City of American Canyon received a windfall allocation for the construction of the Wetlands Edge Trail from the 2005 Federal Highway Bill.

Restoring the biggest undeveloped island in San Francisco Bay to tidal marsh will not only benefit the estuary by providing important habitat for many aquatic, avian and mammal species but also open a window to the wild side of the Bay to visiting schoolchildren, photographers, bird-watchers, hikers, bicyclists and kayakers.

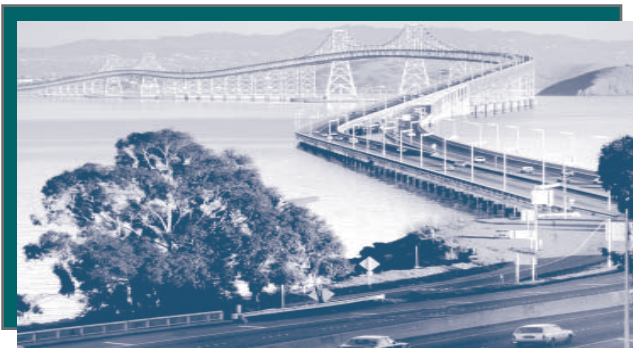
The restoration process offers an opportunity for a new Bay Trail alignment on Bair Island. A new trail access point will be created at the existing parking lot off Bair Island Road. This will replace the current trailhead at Whipple Avenue. From the Bair Island Road parking lot, the Bay Trail begins by crossing the pedestrian bridge. After crossing the bridge, the trail will fork into two separate trails. One segment will extend 1.5 miles northwest towards the San Carlos Airport to an observation deck at Smith Slough, and the other segment will extend 0.3 miles to another observation deck overlooking Middle Bair Island.



Napa County's John Woodbury with Joan Cardellino of the Coastal Conservancy looking at the Napa Plant Site.

In an impressive display of inter-agency coordination, final planning and design of the Wetlands Edge trail segment is being completed as part of the **Napa River Bay Trail** Feasibility Study, paid for by the City of American Canyon. We applaud the County and City's efforts to plan and build over 9 miles of new Bay Trail!

## The Bay Trail and the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge: Update



Richmond-San Rafael Bridge

MTC

Bay Trail Staff has been a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for bicycle and pedestrian access on the **Richmond/San Rafael Bridge** for the past 3 years. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is currently coordinating the third study in ten years regarding public access on the bridge and will be presenting final recommendations regarding alternatives in early summer 2007. Stay tuned for MTC/Caltrans' long-awaited conclusions regarding public access on one of the three remaining inaccessible toll bridges in the Bay Trail system!



## Updated Bay Trail Maps

The new Bay Trail maps are in, and they've got us seeing red! Red is the color of a complete Bay Trail segment, and we are happy to report that 288 of our planned 500 miles are now complete. These maps show newly completed segments of trail with a few new recommended routes to peak your interest. To order a set of new maps, please visit [www.baytrail.org](http://www.baytrail.org), where you will also find a list of retail locations.



## Bay Trail Board Changes

At their October 2006 meeting, the Bay Trail Board of Directors expressed their thanks to three departing board members and welcomed three new members.

Founding board member **Del Woods** has stepped down after 16 years of dedication to the Bay Trail. Del was on the original board of directors as a representative of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. For many years, he played a critical role in moving negotiations with NASA forward to close the gap at Moffett Field, and he worked to expand Bay Trail access at the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve in East Palo Alto. **Ana Ruiz** has replaced Del as the representative from the District. A senior planner with more than eight years of open space and recreational planning experience, she is overseeing the tidal restoration of the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve.

**Doug Johnson** of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) has taken on the new role of TLC Program Manager focusing on smart growth planning and programming efforts. **Sean Co** has stepped in as his replacement and is responsible for the Regional Bicycle Working Group, the Regional Pedestrian Group, implementation of Routine Accommodation policies and the 2007 Regional Bicycle Plan update.

## Notes from the Bay Trail

*An article written by Eric Sayetta inspired by his experiences on the Bay Trail.*

Since starting work in Bel Marin Keys in Novato last year, I kept telling myself that I would try riding my bike to work from my home in San Rafael. It didn't happen for a long time as the on-road bike route was very unappealing, involving mostly busy frontage roads next to, around, and even under the freeway. A few weeks ago, a thought crossed my mind – why not try to find a way to ride to work off road? I already knew that I could ride from my door down to the Marin Civic Center on trails, but how would I get to Bel Marin Keys from the Civic Center without going on major roads?

That's when I found out about "The Bay Trail". I did some scouting and found that I could ride all the way from Smith Ranch Road to Bel Marin Keys on fabulous trails. I started on an established levee trail in the Las Gallinas Sanitary District, and then found my way through the former Hamilton Army Airfield, where a wetlands restoration project—including an important Bay Trail segment—is underway.

When I reached Bel Marin Keys Blvd, I knew that I had discovered more than just a way to save money on gas – this was a commute that was so outrageously scenic and exhilarating, I would gladly do it on my day off! On the Bay Trail, I was astounded by the wildlife. I spotted a group of deer running through the wetlands in single file. I saw, 5, then 10, then 15. Gigantic white pelicans were sleeping in a large group a few hundred yards away. Red-tail hawks were roosting near the trail's edge, and jackrabbits were bounding about.

When I reached my office, I let out a little victory cry. My commute and my favorite recreational activity are now one and the same!

**Jody Zaitlin**, recently retired after 16 years at the Port of Oakland, has joined the board. As a marine biologist, she now works as an independent consultant with extensive experience planning and implementing habitat restoration projects along the shoreline.

**Dana Cowell**, formerly the Caltrans District 4 Deputy Executive Director, has left the agency to serve as Deputy Director of Regional and Transportation Planning for the San Joaquin County Council of Governments. **Jean Finney** remains on the board as the Caltrans representative.

Bay Trail staff extends our deepest appreciation to board members who have moved on and welcomes the new members.

# Along the Bay Trail

## MARIN

Exciting things are happening at Golden Gate National Recreation Area's **Fort Baker in Sausalito**. A retreat and conference center is currently under development in the historic buildings around the parade ground, the Bay Area Discovery Museum will expand into historic buildings, and a National Park Service visitor center will be established. A spectacular new interpretive trail will be created from Lime Point along the waterfront, connecting to new Bay Trail at the foot of the Golden Gate Bridge, around Horseshoe Bay and then to East Road, Battery Duncan and the chapel. In all, this project will construct over 1.5 miles of new Bay Trail.

## SOLANO

**The Bay Trail alignment in Vallejo** between Benicia State Recreation Area and the Carquinez Bridge is one of the few sections where the San Francisco Bay Trail and Bay Area Ridge Trail share the same spine alignment. Portions of the existing multi-use pathway meet Ridge Trail standards but not Bay Trail standards, and important segments of trail along the bluff above Interstate 80 are non-existent. As this trail segment is of major importance to both regional trail projects, the Bay Trail and Ridge Trail Projects in partnership with the Coastal Conservancy are jointly funding a feasibility study to identify a preferred alignment through the area. It is our hope that construction of a recommended route will soon follow!

The City of Vallejo is currently making major roadway improvements that will complete the **Wilson Avenue gap in the Bay Trail** in Solano County. The reconstructed Wilson Avenue will be a two-lane roadway with a median strip, bike lanes, an off-street path and other improvements that will connect to four miles of existing Bay Trail on either side, and will provide better access to the waterfront, the ferry, and downtown.

## CONTRA COSTA

In February, the City of Richmond and Port of Richmond approved a contract with Insight to design the 2.3 miles of Bay Trail and three interpretive areas proposed at the historic **Kaiser Shipyard III** site in Richmond. The design team will also include LandPeople and Leslie Stone Associates. When completed, this segment of the Bay Trail will offer close-up views of Brooks Island Regional Preserve, provide access to the historic SS Red Oak Victory, and be part of the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front Historical Park. This design project is funded primarily by a \$143,000 Bay Trail Grant and builds on a feasibility study also funded by the Bay Trail Project.



## ALAMEDA

The City of Oakland presented the most recent design of the **Embarcadero Bridge Replacement Project** at the Bay Conservation and Development Commission's Design Review Board meetings in January and May. The existing Embarcadero Bridge provides a crossing at the Lake Merritt Channel along Embarcadero in Oakland but is not wide enough to accommodate the Bay Trail. As designed, the proposed replacement bridge will be a vast improvement for the Bay Trail compared to the existing bridge. The replacement bridge will provide 6-foot-wide bicycle lanes that will connect with the existing Bay Trail on Embarcadero. In addition, the replacement bridge will include a 12-foot-wide, multi-use path along the south side of the bridge that will be separated from road traffic. This 12-foot-wide path will be a part of the newly adopted Bay Trail alignment along the Oakland Estuary shoreline. This new Bay Trail alignment was developed as part of the Oakland Waterfront Trail/Bay Trail Feasibility Study funded by the Bay Trail Project and Coastal Conservancy.

## SANTA CLARA

An excellent model of cooperation between PG&E, Starlink Logistics Inc., Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, City of Palo Alto and East Palo Alto has led to an improved segment of the Bay Trail. The City of Palo Alto will widen and resurface 1,100 feet of existing dirt trail that is currently 5 to 6 feet in width. The improvements will result in an 8-foot-wide, multi-use, all-weather trail extending south from Bay Road along the edge of the Faber-Laumeister Marsh in East Palo Alto. The trail will be constructed along a permanent easement



View of Faber-Laumeister Marsh from the Bay Trail

Greg Betts, City of Palo Alto

and provide an improved connection between the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve in East Palo Alto and the existing Bay Trail in Palo Alto. Ultimately, this trail will be a part of a direct connection to the existing pedestrian and bicycle access on the Dumbarton Bridge. A short section of unimproved trail remains along the Torres property between this project and the existing trail to the south. The project partners are working to upgrade this unimproved trail segment through a separate process.

*Along the Bay Trail cont. on back page*

*Along the Bay Trail cont. from page 5*

## SAN MATEO

As part of a previous Genentech expansion at their South San Francisco campus, a new 2,335- foot long, 12-foot-wide Bay Trail segment was completed South of the San Bruno Point Pier. This new trail segment connects to the existing trail facilities. Currently, Genentech is in the process of obtaining South San Francisco's approval for another campus expansion project that will include new shoreline facilities such as a playing field, a concession stand, public restrooms and additional public parking.

South of Colma Creek, there are new Bay Trail sections along Airport Boulevard that resulted from San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission mitigation requirements for public access. These include the trail that begins near the San Francisco Scavenger facility and travels to the leaf-shaped point of land called the SamTrans Peninsula. The second new trail from Airport Boulevard leads to San Bruno Avenue ending near the southbound off-ramp of Hwy 101. This important trail segment is a first step for the Bay Trail to connect around the San Francisco International Airport.



*New Bay Trail Near Genentech in South San Francisco*

Brad McCrea, BCDC

### Corrections

Some of the ABAG sponsor names for the 2006 golf tournament were misprinted in the Fall 2006 Newsletter. They should read:

Ideal Drying and Meyers, Nave, Riback, Silver & Wilson

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**BAY TRAIL RIDER**, the newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Trail Project, highlights the progress and development of the Bay Trail.  
For more information about the Bay Trail, visit our website or call, write or e-mail us.



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Nonprofit org.  
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